

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 09551 101606Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----101619Z 020815 /40

O 101344Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4886  
INFO AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 09551

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (LINES OMITTED PARAS 2 & 3)

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PBOR PLOS ENRG LY TS US  
SUBJECT: TUNISIAN-LIBYAN CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE

REF: (A) STATE 133570, (B) STATE 134230

1. FOLLOWING IS REPORT OF LATEST EMBASSY CONTACTS WITH THORNTON IN LONDON. AT 23:30 ON JUNE 9 THORNTON AND HIS LAWYER HILLIN CAME TO EMBOFF'S QUARTERS. LATTER HAD JUST RECEIVED REFTEL A AND WAS RECEIVING PHONE CALL FROM VELIOTIS IN DEPT GIVING CORRECTIONS IN TEXT (AS LATER CONFIRMED IN REFTEL B). UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, EMBOFF READ OFF TO THORNTON ON PROVISIONAL BASIS REVISED TEXT OF LETTER, AND SAID HE WOULD GIVE THORNTON CONFIRMED TEXT MORNING JUNE 10. THORNTON EXPRESSED APPRECIATION.

2. CONVERSATION CONTINUED UNTIL AFTER MIDNIGHT. HILLIN CONTENTED THAT AT THIS POINT TUNISIANS ARE SIMPLY USING USG INFLUENCE WITH READING & BATES AS LEVER IN BARGAINING NEGOTIATIONS WITH LIBYANS. EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT TUNISIANS REGARD THEIR CLAIM TO DISPUTED AREA AS MATTER CONFIDENTIAL

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OF NATIONAL HONOR AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.

3. FOLLOWING MORNING AT 9:30 EMBOFF GAVE THORNTON AND HILLIN REVISED TEXT AND ORALLY DELIVERED REVISED ORAL PRESENTATION. THEY CONSIDERED CAREFULLY DEPARTMENT'S RECOMMENDATION THAT THEY REMAIN IN LONDON THROUGH THE WEEKEND AND ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE THE LIBYAN TEAM TO DO

THE SAME. HOWEVER, THORNTON INFORMED EMBOFF FRANKLY THAT ON BALANCE HE OPPOSED THIS COURSE OF ACTION SINCE HE THOUGHT IT WOULD OFFEND MUNTASSER, WHOM HE CONSIDERS A RESPONSIBLE LIBYAN OFFICIAL, AND MUNTASSER'S SUPERIORS IN THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT. THORNTON SAID THAT THE LIBYANS, IN EVIDENTLY GOOD FAITH ON THEIR PART, HAVE REPEATEDLY INSISTED TO HIM THAT A DEAL HAS BEEN MADE IN TUNIS PROVIDING FOR CONTINUED DRILLING. FOR THORNTON TO URGE THE LIBYANS TO STAY IN LONDON TO CONTINUE TO CONFER MERELY BECAUSE THE TUNISIANS WILL NOT ACKNOWLEDGE IT WOULD "INSULT" THE CREDIBILITY OF THE LIBYANS. FURTHERMORE, IF THE SITUATION REQUIRES IT, THORNTON CAN MEET AGAIN WITH THE LIBYAN TEAM ON RELATIVELY SHORT NOTICE AT ANY AGREED LOCATION.

4. THORNTON AND HILLIN THEN MET WITH THE LIBYANS AGAIN IN MID-MORNING. HILLIN REPORTS THAT THORNTON GAVE THEM THE GIST OF THE LATEST VELIOTIS LETTER, BUT DID NOT GIVE THEM A COPY OF IT AND OMITTED REFERENCE TO THE EXTENSION TO 15 DAYS. AT THE MEETING BOTH LIBYAN AND READING & BATES CONFEREES AGREED THAT AT THE MOMENT SITUATION HAD EASED TO SUCH A DEGREE THAT THEY NEED NO LONGER STAY IN UK. LIBYANS INDICATED THEY ARE RETURNING TO TRIPOLI, AND MUNTASSER SPOKE ABOUT GOING TO NEW YORK SOON FOR UNDISCLOSED PURPOSES.

5. THORNTON AND HILLIN THEREUPON OBTAINED SPACE ON BRITISH AIRWAYS CONCORDE FLIGHT 579, AND EXPECT TO ARRIVE AT DULLES 12:10 WASHINGTON TIME JUNE 10. HILLIN  
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TOLD EMBOFF HE THOUGHT THEY WOULD BE ON THE GROUND IN WASHINGTON FOR A FEW HOURS BEFORE PROCEEDING ON, PRESUMABLY TO TULSA.

BREWSTER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 77 STATE 133570, 77 STATE 134230  
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**TAGS:** PBOR, PLOS, ENRG, LY, TS, US, (THORNTON)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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